

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0046] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0046] The following description of the preferred embodiments are merely exemplary in nature and are in no way intended to limit the invention, its application, or uses.

Referring to Figure 1, an acetabular prosthesis 20 according to the teachings of a first embodiment of the present invention is shown. The acetabular prosthesis 20 has a inner surface 22 defining a first metal bearing surface 24 and an outer surface 26 capable of being coupled or impacted into a prepared acetabulum 28 (~~see Figure 6~~). Defined between the outer surface 26 and the inner surface 22 is a peripheral surface or rim 30. Disposed on the peripheral surface 30 is a locking mechanism 34. The locking mechanism 34 is capable of coupling a second prosthetic such as an optional constraining ring 36 (see Figure 2), or an optional insert bearing 38 (see Figure 4) into a bearing cavity 40 which is defined by the inner surface 22 of the acetabular prosthesis 20. The second prosthetic substantially surrounds a head of a femoral component (as further described later), were substantially encloses includes for example a slotted constraining ring.